

SOUTHWEST ALASKA TRANSPORTATION PLAN REVISION

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN

prepared for the

Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

prepared by

PB Consult Inc.

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Public Involvement Plan

The Southwest Alaska Transportation Plan, an approved component of the Alaska Statewide Transportation Plan was completed in November 2002. The study area for the plan includes the Alaska Peninsula, Kodiak and its neighboring islands, the Aleutian Islands, the Bristol Bay area, and the Pribilof Islands.

The current Southwest Alaska Transportation Plan needs to be revised. The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT&PF) has been directed by a legal decision to halt all work on the Iliamna-Nondalton road and bridge project until the economic costs and the benefits are considered in this next revision of the Southwest Plan. The revision will extract the Iliamna-Nondalton and the Dillingham-Aleknagik corridor projects from the baseline for the Southwest Plan and subject them to the economic analysis used to assess other projects in the Southwest Alaska Transportation Plan. The Plan revision process will consist of a technical memorandum, review by an Advisory Committee, production of a draft revised Southwest Alaska Transportation Plan, review by the general public and then production of a final revised document.

Approach

DOT&PF is committed to meaningful interaction with residents of the study area. The agency's goals include timely notice of plan development and participation opportunities, as well as a legitimate ongoing process, clear communication, and common sense. The goals of this process include:

- Notification of the planning opportunities and constraints (to residents);
- Invitation of input based on the region's vision of its future;
- Communication with people where they already meet, such as local Assembly and Council meetings and meetings of established interest groups;
- Integration of the community's needs and values with technical issues of generating and evaluating transportation alternatives; and



- Provision of feedback to interested parties

The approach to the public process will involve many strategies of communication, with a focus on utilization of the Internet and contact with existing organizations. The Study Team will communicate through the project website (<http://www.dot.state.ak.us/stwdplng/areaplans/swplan.shtml>) as well as through personal contact.

Communities and Groups

One of the responsibilities of the Study Team is to meet with local communities and groups that are in the effective area of the Transportation Plan. Public meetings (one each) will be conducted in the communities of Aleknagik, Dillingham, Iliamna and Newhalen, Nondalton, and Anchorage. Notice of these meetings will be made in such a way that they effectively notify the affected communities and members of the public expected to attend. Specific Non-Metropolitan Local Officials to be contacted are:

1. City of Aleknagik
2. City of Dillingham
3. Lake & Peninsula Borough
4. City of Nondalton
5. City of Newhalen

Additionally, all affected Native entities will be contacted during the process for input into the updated Plan. These Native entities include:

1. Aleknagik Traditional Council
2. Curyung Tribal Council
3. Iliamna Village Council
4. Nondalton Tribal Council
5. Newhalen Tribal Council



Public Involvement Schedule

The overall schedule of the Public Involvement process begins with kick-off of the project in March 2004 and is scheduled to be completed by August 2004. The first phase of comments is scheduled to be completed in April 2004, after which the Draft Transportation Plan update will be made public.

Comment Period #1

Notice of the Proposed Revision was published in the Bristol Bay Times on February 19, 2004. The notice also was posted on the Alaska Online Public Notice System and distributed by mail to interested persons and incumbent state legislators. No less than 45 days after this notice, DOT&PF will form a public review group for the proposed update to the plan. This review group will include any person that responded to the notice or anyone who requests inclusion in the review process. DOT&PF will give members of this group written notice of all materials and pertinent information regarding the plan update.

Comment Period #2

The second phase of comments occurs after the draft revision to the plan has been published. Each copy of the draft plan will include a questionnaire designed to solicit comments. DOT&PF will wait at least 45 days before closing the period for comments on the draft plan (approximately the end of June 2004), during which time the public meetings will be held. As mentioned, these meetings will occur in specific communities and in places in which local residents already gather.

Upon receipt of this second round of comments, they will be posted on the Internet and responded to. The location of this website will be the Correspondence Reading Room that was utilized during the first round of the Southwest Alaska Transportation Plan, located at <http://www.dot.state.ak.us/stwdplng/areaplans/swplan.shtml>.

Following receipt of public comments, the Study Team will prepare the Final Revised Plan, which will address the comments of the public. By approximately the third week of July 2004 the Commissioner will



adopt the Revised Plan after which DOT&PF will provide written notice of this adoption to interested persons, the public review group, and any public advisory committee.

Proposed Schedule

(All dates listed below are approximate.)

February 19, 2004 – Publish Notice of Proposed Revision

April 5, 2004 – First phase of comments closed

May 11, 2004 – Draft revised plan completed

May 19, 2004 – Public draft of SW plan revision issued

June 7 – June 11, 2004 – Public Meetings

July 4, 2004 – Second phase of comments closed

July 20, 2004 – Final revised plan completed

July 21, 2004 – Commissioner adopts revised SW plan

July 21 – July 26, 2004 – Publish revised SW plan

July 26 – August 6, 2004 – Written notice provided to interested parties

